

The Spirit of Missions;

EDITED FOR

THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.

VOL. XII.

JULY, 1847.

No. 7.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BOARD OF MISSIONS.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,

New-York, June 23d, 1847.

This being the time and place for the Annual Meeting of the "Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America," several Bishops and other members of the Board attended divine service at 9 o'clock A. M.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt, Secretary of the Board; the Ante-Communion service, and the service for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper by the Bishop of Massachusetts, assisted in the distribution of the elements by the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt.

The religious services having been concluded, the Board proceeded to business.

Present: The Rt. Rev. the Bishops of Vermont, New-Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; the Rev. Messrs. Anthon, Balch, Bedell, Burgess, Cooke, Crocker, Cutler, Dorr, Henderson, Halsey, Irving, Jarvis, Jones, McVickar, Meade, Neufville, Ogilby, Proal, Richmond, Robertson, Rodney, Suddards, Van

Ingen, Van Pelt, Wainwright, Whitehouse, and Woodbridge; Messrs. De Peyster, Gardiner, Huntington, Newton, Rogers, Stanford, Winston, and Woolley.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Vermont, being the senior Bishop present, took the chair.

The roll having been called, it was, on motion of the Secretary,

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Dorr, the Board proceeded, in compliance with the third article of the By-Laws, to the appointment of a Secretary; and on motion of the same, the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt was re-appointed.

The Secretary having requested the appointment of an Assistant Secretary, and nominated Mr. William T. Webbe to that office, he was accordingly appointed.

On motion of the Secretary, it was

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to examine and report whether any vacancies, at present, exist in this Board.

The Secretary, the Rev. Drs. Meade and Neufville were appointed the committee.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Connecticut appeared and took the chair.

The Rev. C. H. Halsey, as Secretary and General Agent of the Domestic Committee, presented and read the Annual Report* of that body, required by the eighth article of the Constitution; which, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, was referred to a committee of five.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Pennsylvania, the Rev. Drs. Burgess, Crocker, and Neufville, and S. H. Huntington, Esq., were appointed the committee.

The Rev. Mr. Irving, as Secretary and General Agent of the Foreign Committee, presented and read the Annual Report† of that body; which, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, was referred to a committee of five.

* Vide Appendix A.

† Vide Appendix B.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of New Jersey, the Rev. Drs. Meade, Dorr and Whitehouse, and E. A. Newton, Esq., were appointed the committee.

The Rev. Mr. Irving, on behalf of Dr. J. Smyth Rogers, Treasurer of the Foreign Committee, presented the Annual Report* of that officer, duly audited ; which, on motion of the same, was referred to a committee of three.

The Rev. Dr. Proal, the Rev. Mr. Richmond, and Mr. Huntington were appointed the committee.

The Rev. Mr. Halsey, on behalf of T. N. Stanford, Esq., Treasurer of the Domestic Committee, presented the Annual Report† of that officer, duly audited ; which, on motion of the same, was referred to a committee of three.

The Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, the Rev. Dr. Van Ingen, and Mr. Gardiner were appointed the committee.

The Secretary laid before the Board the Annual Report‡ of the Right Rev. Dr. Kemper, Missionary Bishop for the North-West, and the Annual Report§ of the Right Rev. Dr. Freeman, Missionary Bishop of the South-West ; which, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, were referred to the committee to whom was referred the report of the Domestic Committee.

The Rev. Mr. Irving presented and read the Annual Joint Report|| of the Secretaries and General Agents, as Editors of the Spirit of Missions, on the condition of that periodical ; which, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, was ordered to be printed with the minutes of the Board.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of Massachusetts offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed to take into consideration the circumstances of the Constantinople Mission, and to ascertain from all authentic sources its prospects of future usefulness, and to report at the Triennial Meeting of the Board ; which, on motion of Mr. Newton, was laid on the table,

* Vide Appendix D.

† Vide Appendix C.

‡ Vide Appendix F.

§ Vide Appendix G.

|| Vide Appendix E.

and made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, immediately after the reading of the minutes.

A communication* from the Right Rev. Horatio Southgate, D. D., Missionary Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Dominions and Dependencies of the Sultan of Turkey, was presented and read by the Secretary; which, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Robertson, was referred to the same committee to whom the report of the Foreign Committee was referred.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, it was

Resolved, That when this Board adjourns, it will adjourn to attend Divine Service in the Church of the Ascension, at 8 o'clock this evening, on occasion of the preaching of the Annual Sermon, and to meet in the place of the present meeting to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, for the transaction of business.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Board, attested by its Secretary, be referred to the two Committees for publication.

Resolved, That the proceedings of the Board be printed in the "Spirit of Missions," and that 250 copies be printed from the same types, as a separate pamphlet, with the usual title-page prefixed.

Resolved, That the Reports of the Treasurers be printed with the Proceedings of the Board.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of the two Committees be authorized to draw, at their discretion, on the Domestic and Foreign Funds, in equal parts, for the incidental expenses attending the present meeting of the Board.

On motion of Robt. H. Gardiner, Esq., the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Foreign Committee be requested to report to this Board, the effect that has been produced upon the receipts of the Board, by the employment of Special Agents, with a comparison of the receipts through them with the expense of their support.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Vermont offered the following resolutions:

* Vide Appendix H.

Resolved, That the General Convention be respectfully requested to consider the expediency of passing a law, making it the duty of every communicant of the Church to contribute to the Missionary Treasury a sum not less than one dollar per annum; one twelfth of which it shall be incumbent on the Rector to collect on every occasion of administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, reckoning at least twelve such occasions in the year, but in such a mode as shall in no way interfere with the Communion Alms.

Resolved, That the Foreign Committee be recommended to consider the expediency of providing for the maintenance and education, within the Church in the United States, of such youths as may be selected for that purpose, by our Foreign Bishops, and our Missionaries in Africa, with a view to the supply of native Ministers.

On motion, the Board adjourned.

8 o'clock, P. M.

The Board attended divine service. Evening Prayer was read by the Rev. B. C. Cutler, D. D., Rector of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, L. I., and the Annual Sermon preached by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Massachusetts, from the 8th verse of the 2nd Psalm. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee, the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

Festival of St. John the Baptist, June 24th, 1847.

9 o'clock, A. M.

The Board met.

Present: The Rt. Rev. the Bishops of Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Western New York, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania; the Rev. Messrs. Anthon, Balch, Bedell, Burgess, Cooke, Crocker, Dorr, Halsey, Henderson, Irving, Jarvis, Jones, McVickar, Meade, Morgan, Neufville, Ogilby, Richmond, Robertson, Rodney, Sherwood, Suddards, Turner, Van Ingen, Van Pelt, Wainwright, Whitehouse, Woodbridge, and Wyatt; Messrs. Ashhurst, Curtis, De Peyster, Gardiner,

Huntington, Newton, Rogers, Sands, Stanford, Winston, Wolfe, and Woolley.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. S. F. Jarvis, D. D., LL. D., the Ante-Communion Service by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Western New York, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Jarvis, who read the Epistle.

The religious services being concluded, the Board proceeded to business.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Connecticut, being the senior Bishop present, took the chair.

The calling of the roll being, on motion of the Secretary, dispensed with, the minutes of the last meeting were read.

The order of the day,—being the resolution of the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Massachusetts, in relation to the Constantinople Mission,—was taken up.

Pending the consideration of this resolution, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Maryland moved to lay it on the table. The ayes and noes being called for, were as follows :

Ayes—The Rt. Rev. the Bishops of Connecticut, New Jersey, Western New York, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania ; the Rev. Messrs. Dorr, Henderson, Halsey, Jarvis, Jones, Mc-Vickar, Meade, Morgan, Ogilby, Proal, Richmond, Robertson, Rodney, Sherwood, Turner, Van Ingen, Wainwright, Whitehouse, and Wyatt ; Messrs. Curtis, De Peyster, Gardiner, Huntington, and Newton. Total, 30.

Noes—The Rt. Rev. the Bishops of Vermont and Massachusetts ; the Rev. Messrs. Anthon, Balch, Bedell, Burgess, Cooke, Crocker, Irving, Neufville, Suddards, Van Pelt, and Woodbridge ; Messrs. Ashhurst, Rogers, Sands, Winston, Wolfe, and Woolley. Total, 19.

So the motion to lay on the table was carried.

The Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, as chairman of the committee to whom was referred the report of the Treasurer of the Domestic Committee, presented the following report :

The Committee, to whom the accounts of the Treasurer of the Domestic Committee were referred, find that the same have

been duly examined and certified to be correct, and recommend that they be received and entered on the journal of this Board.

GEO. WOODBRIDGE,

J. V. VAN INGEN,

R. H. GARDINER.

New York, June 23d, 1847.

The Rev. Dr. Proal, as chairman of the committee to whom was referred the report of the Treasurer of the Foreign Committee, presented the following report:

The Committee to whom the account of the Treasurer of the Foreign Committee was referred, report that the same has been duly examined, compared with the vouchers, and certified to be correct, by a committee appointed for that purpose, and therefore recommend that it be published in the proceedings of this Board.

P. ALEXIS PROAL,

WM. RICHMOND,

SAM'L H. HUNTINGTON.

New York, 23d June, 1847.

The Rev. Dr. Whitehouse, as chairman of the committee appointed at the last meeting of the Board to take charge of the funds collected for the erection of a Jewish chapel, presented the following report; which, on motion of the same, was referred to the committee to whom the report of the Domestic Committee was referred:

The Committee appointed by resolution of the Board at the last meeting, "to take charge of certain funds, and apply them to the purpose for which they were given, viz: the erection of a chapel for public worship for the benefit of the Jewish Mission," beg leave to report:

That in the execution of this trust, the Committee have purchased an edifice lately known as the "Church of the Redemption," situated in Sixth street, near the Second Avenue, in this city. The amount paid for the property is 10,750 dollars, of which \$3,750 has been paid from amount of funds received by the Committee, and the balance remains on bond and mortgage on the premises. Under the name of the "Church of the Cir-

cumcision," it has been occupied for public worship by the Missionary to the Jews, since the 1st Sunday in Advent. In order to attain this desirable object, the Committee availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase an edifice already built, rather than attempt to erect one, which, besides costing much more, would not have been for some time available for the use of the Mission.

The title of the property, by legal advice, was vested in the Committee as Trustees, and can be transferred now or hereafter at the order of the Board.

Connected with this is the report of the Treasurer of the Committee, R. B. Minturn, Esq., of the amount received and disbursed by him.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY J. WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman.

June 24th, 1847.

The Secretary, as chairman of the committee appointed to examine and report whether any vacancies at present exist in the Board, reported that there were no vacancies.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of New Jersey, as chairman of the committee to whom was referred the report of the Foreign Committee, presented the following report :

The Special Committee, to whom was referred the Annual Report of the Foreign Committee, have carefully considered the same. They are of opinion that the work entrusted to this Committee never gave such evidence of God's favor, in its present success, and future promise, as at this time. When they review, from field to field, the progress of the Gospel, in this portion of the heavenly vineyard, they instinctively exclaim, with grateful and adoring love, "What hath God wrought!" They add, in the undoubting confidence of faith, what will He not work, even by us, if we are true to Him, and to our trust!

They turn to Athens, the darkened eye of Greece. They find in that first fruits of Missionary zeal, beyond the borders of our land, the clearest tokens of increasing influence for good. The Mission there is well established in the confidence alike of government and people; and has won, for our western branch

of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, the admiration and respect of the great multitudes, from every nation, who are attracted to the land of Plato and Socrates. To have gained a hearing, and secured a lodgment for the Gospel in the Church where the Apostle first proclaimed it, in the ears of scoffing Stoics and self-indulgent Epicureans, is much to have accomplished, in a period much longer than the Mission has existed. The strength of Missions much depends upon the moral power with which they speak to human hearts. The enterprise to plan, the skill to conquer, the perseverance to maintain a Mission, such as this, in Athens, in circumstances so peculiar, against difficulties so trying, is an argument that cannot be resisted, to prove that there is life and warmth and energy in our communion, and that God is with us, of a truth. It should re-act upon ourselves. It should re-invigorate our enterprise. It should re-animate our skill. It should re-double our perseverance. What if the fruits, so called, were fewer far, and far less precious, than they have been! Our business is to plant, and water; and to leave increase to God. We know that every plant of His will live, and grow, and bear its fruit. It is only children that expect to see the oak, the next day after they have planted in the acorn. "Wait, I say, on the Lord!"

The reports from Western Africa are cheering, to our highest expectations. Disease and death, indeed, have done their work. One and another has gone up to heaven, as men judge, prematurely, from the shores of that dark land of slavery and superstition; and the curious and the carnal, as of old, exclaim, "To what purpose is this waste!" But when we hear of Christian schools, and Christian churches, and Christian homes, that spring up, in the Gospel's cheerful light, and make a sunshine in the shadiest place of all the earth; when we see the arts of life, with all their comforts and refinements, reclaiming those wild wastes to usefulness and happiness, and naked savages, now clothed, and in their right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus, to be taught of Him; when we hear of native teachers, and begin to cherish our heart's fondest hope for Africa, the promise of a native ministry, we feel that from the bones of these, our brethren, as

from the prophets of old time, a virtue has come forth, which God will make more glorious than the longest life could be, and more effectual for the cause, for which they lived, and were content to die. One want there is, for which this Mission sadly pines, a Bishop at its head. Let us unite our prayers, that God may give even this to us, at our next General Convention. Let us unite our praises to the glory of His grace, that even now it is fulfilled, as David spake, and Ethiopia does stretch forth her hands unto God.

From the Mission at Constantinople, we are without details of information. This is explained, as follows, in a letter from the Missionary Bishop to the Secretary of the Board: "I had the intention of sending you my annual report to the Board, at this time; but, upon further consideration, it seems to me best to defer it till the Triennial Meeting, which occurs this year. In this way I shall be able to embrace some topics which I can now present but immaturely, and speak of some labors which I may then report as completed. Besides, as the deferred question concerning the Mission comes up at the Triennial Meeting, it seems best that the report should be presented at the same time. The Board will thus have a full view of the Mission, up to the time of its action, and will be able to deliberate more advisedly concerning its interests. I take this course with the distinct understanding, that no question relating to this Mission will be considered at the Annual Meeting; upon which I regard the vote of the Board at its last meeting as decisive." It is perhaps as well that this is so. The Mission at Constantinople is, beyond any other that we can attempt, the least to be looked to for rapid and direct results. It is a Mission for influence. It is a Mission for the interchange of offices of love with ancient sister Churches, long estranged from Western Christendom. It is a Mission for restoration, and renovation, and revival. There is nothing so delicate; there is nothing so difficult; there is nothing that requires such time and care; there is nothing so trying to impatient sight; there is nothing that so much demands the exercise of faith. A mistake may mar the work of ages; a hasty word undo the hope of years. We must pray and trust.

Surely we can afford to do so. The object for which we work and pray, is the re-union of national Churches, the return of myriads and millions to the confidence and communion of the saints. In other fields we labor worthily, to win a single soul to Jesus Christ. In this, the prize of faith and patience is no less than the whole Eastern Church; and, through it, the widest and most effectual door that can be opened to the vast world of Eastern heathendom;* thus placing the Mission to Constantinople and the Mission to China, as fellow-laborers, hand in hand, and heart to heart, in the great work of bringing all the Gentiles home to God. The Committee regret the occasion for the resignation of Mr. Taylor, and for the return of Mr. Miles; and for the latter, they must hope that provision may be made for his return to a portion of the Missionary field, for which he must have attained valuable qualifications.

The China Mission is full of encouraging promise. The cheerful tone of the active Bishop there deserves a cordial response from all our hearts. He is working zealously and well; and his fellow-helpers are evidently of an excellent spirit. Nothing could be more commendable than the self-devotion manifested by the ladies connected with the Mission. The people among whom they labor, are of a character to be won and moulded by feeble gentleness and grace. A nobler spectacle is no where to be found than that which they present, who have given themselves to it for Christ. The subject of providing a Liturgy for the native worship, which is occupying now the attention of Bishop Boone, is of the first importance. We need to pray for choicest gifts for one who lays the foundations of the Church in such an empire as that of China. He needs the sevenfold graces of the spirit in their fullest measure: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, the spirit of God's holy fear—and these will God bestow in answer to our prayers.

The Committee have not lost sight of the financial aspects of the report committed to them. They do not, however, share in

*See Buchanan's Christian Researches.

the views taken of them by the Foreign Committee. They deeply regret that Churchmen do not rise to the true estimate of their great privilege, to spend, and to be spent, for Christ. They earnestly pray, that they may learn, by rich experience, the truth of those most gracious words of His, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." They confidently trust, that a better state of things, in this respect, will wait on the bold leading of the Board of Missions, for Christ and His Church. They are sure that what is called for, under God, in this great cause, is a firm front and steady foot. They would have the Board adopt and follow the language in which God addresses them, as once the leader of His chosen, "Speak unto the people, that they go forward!" The whole history of Missions is a record of encouragement and animation. It is but to work and wait, to make the blessing sure. Look at the work of grace in India. See, where, half a century ago, the venerable Schwartz and his associates labored, and wept, and prayed, with but an ear or two, to cheer their hearts, whole fields now white unto the harvest. "More than eighteen thousand souls," writes the Bishop of Madras in 1845, "have renounced idolatry, and placed themselves under Christian instruction, since January, 1841, when I last visited these Missions. Thus, in four years and a half, the Christian community in Tinnevely has doubled itself: the increase during that period being equal to the total increase of the fifty-four years which have preceded it." The thing that hath been is the thing that shall be. "In Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Only let us go on, in faith, and hope, and love. What are we, that we should be God's fellow-helpers, to bear forward the precious Cross of His dear Son, and set it up among the Heathen, for whom He died? What are we, that we should not wait God's time, and take His way, and rejoice, if need be, to lay our lives down, even before the promised land is seen; that so an entrance into it may surely be effected, for the happier souls that shall come after us?

To the people of our communion, the Committee must address a single "word in season." The present year has been a year of unparalleled scarcity and suffering to other portions of the

Lord's family ; to us, a year of unexampled plenty and prosperity. And yet, the gifts into the treasury of God fall off, on every hand ! What is this, but to tempt the Lord our God, to visit us with scourges ? What is it, but that which is written, " He gave them their desire, but sent leanness withal into their souls ?" What may it be, unless we turn, and repent, and give ourselves to Him, and all we are and have, but that which is also written, " When He slew them, then they sought Him ?"

In conclusion, the Committee offer the following resolutions for adoption by the Board :

Resolved, That the aspect of the field of Foreign Missions is encouraging ; and calls for our renewed devotion, in the prosecution of the work, as for our fervent thanks to Him, " who hitherto hath helped us."

Resolved, That the Clergy and people of the Church be earnestly and affectionately entreated to commend the work of Foreign Missions to the blessing of God, in their daily prayers ; and to further it, as He shall prosper them, by their continual alms.

All which is respectfully submitted :

GEORGE W. DOANE,
WILLIAM COOPER MEAD,
B. DORR,
HENRY J. WHITEHOUSE,
EDWARD A. NEWTON.

On motion, the resolutions connected with the report were adopted. ♦

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Board be authorized to make arrangements for the place of the Triennial Meeting, on the second day of the session of the next General Convention, and to fix the time of meeting.

Resolved, That it be referred to the two Secretaries and General Agents, to prepare the Triennial Report of the Board to the General Convention, and present the same at the next meeting of the Board.

The Bishop of Connecticut having retired, the Bishop of Vermont took the chair.

The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Pennsylvania, as chairman of the committee to whom the report of the Domestic Committee was referred, presented the following report :

The Committee to whom was referred the Annual Report of the Domestic Committee, beg leave respectfully to report,

That in consequence of the approach of the Triennial Meeting of the Board, they do not consider it necessary or expedient to enter at large upon the questions which pertain to this Department of our Missions. They cordially concur with the Domestic Committee in their desire to see the field of our operations enlarged, especially on the coast of the Pacific—among our Indian tribes, and also among the immigrants, who are flocking in such unprecedented numbers from all parts of Europe. They are deeply impressed, however, with the wisdom of the resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Board, that new stations ought not to be multiplied, nor new obligations contracted, until those now existing are better provided for. The Board is now in arrears to the fund for paying Domestic Missionaries to the amount of nearly \$10,000, and on the first of October, some \$16,000 more will be due. It seems to your Committee, therefore, that between this and the Triennial Meeting of the Board, all the energies of the Committee should be directed to the supply of this pressing demand, and that for this purpose, a special appeal should be made to the Church. In what form this appeal should be made so as best to attain the object immediately in view, and yet not interfere with the permanent income of the Board, nor with the modes of collection adopted in different parts of the Church, is a question in regard to which the Committee have felt considerable embarrassment, and they would be glad to refer it to the special consideration of the Board as one of instant and most urgent importance.

At the last meeting of the Board, it was resolved that monies which had been collected, or which were held for the establishment of an Indian Bishopric, should be applied to the erection of a chapel for the Jews in the city of New-York, and a com-

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mittee was appointed to superintend the work. It appears from the report of that Committee, that a building and lot were soon afterwards purchased; the balance due, after applying the fund in hand, being secured by a mortgage on the property. In the course of the year, however, as appears from the report of the Missionary in the employment of the Board, he has arrived at the conclusion, that a separate place of worship for this object was not desirable, and that his labors might be more useful, if he were first to visit families, and deliver lectures in places temporarily provided for the purpose, and were afterwards to introduce his converts, and such of their nation as are willing to hear the Gospel, to the Pastors of the city Churches, where, instead of being isolated from the great body of the Church, they could become parts of a promiscuous Christian congregation. He would also in such case be enabled to devote a portion of his time to the service of the Jews in other parts of the United States. It is therefore suggested that as an opportunity is now presented of making advantageous sale of the property, it ought to be embraced, and that the income of the fund which will thus be returned to the Treasury, be added to the principal for the present, or be expended from year to year in procuring temporary accommodations, such as are above referred to. The Committee are inclined to the opinion that the sale of the building and lot is advisable, and they therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved, That the Special Committee appointed last year on the subject of a Jewish edifice, be continued, with all requisite powers to effect a sale of the building and lot now held by them in behalf of this Board, provided the consent of such donors as are known, can be obtained; and that they be directed to pay over the proceeds of said sale to the Treasurer of the Domestic Committee, to be held by him subject to the future action of this Board.

ALONZO POTTER,
N. B. CROCKER,
GEORGE BURGESS,
EDWARD NEUFVILLE,
S. H. HUNTINGTON.

June 24th, 1847.

The resolution appended to the report was adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. C. H. Halsey, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That the seal provided for that purpose by the Domestic and Foreign Committees be adopted as the seal of the Board of Missions, and that the Committees respectively be authorized to affix said seal to documents, which in the regular transaction of the business of said Committees, may or shall require the same.

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Domestic Committee be empowered to receive the legacy, either in whole or in part, of Samuel S. Olden, deceased, to give receipts and acquittances therefor, to make any settlement or compromise in reference to the same, which he may judge expedient, to execute any conveyances or releases to the executors or the devisees under the will, or to both, as counsel may advise ; and to affix to any such instrument the seal of the Board of Missions.

The Rev. Mr. Irving, in compliance with the resolution adopted yesterday, requesting the Secretary and General Agent of the Foreign Committee to report to the Board the effect that has been produced upon the receipts of the Board, by the employment of special agents, &c., presented the following report :

In conformity with the resolutions of the Board of Missions, calling upon the Secretary of the Foreign Committee to state what results had been accomplished by the special agents employed by that body, it is respectfully reported,

1. That in the appointment of special agents, the object had in view was not so much the collection of funds for an immediate exigency, as the imparting to the large number of parishes in the Church, now unacquainted with the Foreign Missionary field, that information which must be the foundation of any interest, and which must precede all contributions. For a full statement of the reasons for adopting this measure, the Board are referred to the Annual Report of the Foreign Committee, 1846, pp. 33, 34.

2. That the actual pecuniary returns of the agents of the Foreign Committee thus far have been less than what may be rea-

sonably looked for hereafter, partly from the early resignation of their agent for the South ; partly, from the providential interruption, by illness, of the labors of the agent for the North ; and partly, from the fact that the agents, when officiating, have in many cases made no collections, deeming it expedient that these should follow in the ordinary course of parochial contributions.

3. That where a comparison between the receipts from parishes visited by agents, and from the same in former years, shows even a less amount collected during the year, there is reason to believe the efforts of the agents have had the effect of preventing a further declension of Missionary spirit, and of bringing into the treasury much of what has been given.

4. That the direct results accomplished by the Northern Agency, (the only one that has been in operation for any period,) have been about one hundred churches visited—an average of about four sermons in each week—7800 miles travelled, and \$4000 collected. (An appendix is added containing particulars.)*

5. That the reports of the agents bear testimony to the kindness with which in nearly every case they have been welcomed by the parochial clergy, who have very generally expressed their conviction of the salutary influence of an Agency judiciously conducted.

6. Finally, that the Committee desire only to make a fair trial of a system commended to them by the experience of all other Missionary institutions, and will unhesitatingly abandon it when its failure shall have become manifest.

PIERRE P. IRVING,
Sec. For. Com.

June 24th, 1847.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Burgess, the following preamble and resolution was adopted :

Whereas, the Domestic Committee is now in arrears to the Fund for paying Missionaries to the amount of nearly \$10,000 ; and whereas, \$16,000 more are indispensably necessary in order

* On file at Mission Rooms

to enable the Committee to meet the engagements which will fall due to Missionaries on the 1st of October, prox. ; and whereas, it is due alike to the Missionaries and to the honor of the Church, that this Committee should be able to meet the General Convention free from debt ; and whereas, the entire sum required within a year from the present time, to pay the existing debt, and sustain the existing Missions, will be about \$40,000 :—

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Domestic Committee be directed to send to the Bishop of each Diocese, or, if there be no acting Bishop, to the President of the Standing Committee, a number of circulars, containing the present resolution, with the request that he will forward one, with his written sanction, to the Minister of each parish in his Diocese, requesting an early reply from each, in which the Minister be desired, either to promise a collection from his parish for Domestic Missions, before the 1st of October next, or else to state the amount for which his parish may be reasonably held responsible, within the year ending on the 15th of June next.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Meade, that after the reading of the minutes, and uniting in suitable devotions, the Board adjourn.

The Board then united in prayer, offered by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Vermont.

The Board adjourned *sine die*.

Attest,

P. VAN PELT,

Secretary.